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I support Bill HB5267 because we need to have a 50% joint custody. Money could be saved for the Plaintiff and Defendant to go for the children if it automatic on parenting time. Also if a 50% joint custody law existed then there would be much more time for the judges to concentrate on other court cases.

I have had several negative personal experiences with the one sided Friend of the Court. One experience was when I was unemployed and my parenting time was one day during the week and alternate weekends with my children. I couldn't find work in Southwest Michigan in a technical or engineering field. I was offered a one-year contract position for Harley Davidson in Milwaukee, WI. I accepted the position to provide child support to my children and to show them the responsibility of a working parent. I gave up my weekday visitation to support my children financially. After a year my contract expired and I was released. Afterwards, I filed a motion to get my children one day during the week like I had before. The Friend of the Court denied my request. A couple of years later I again filed a motion and I was rejected a second time. Many other divorce families have joint custody or alternate weekends with a day during the week but I can't get this.

Another reason is the children get to know the paternal side of the family and not just the maternal side of the family, which they are most familiar with. With so little visitation time its difficult for the paternal side to see their niece, nephew, or grandchildren.

Its beneficial for the children to have both parents involved. One final thought that I would like to mention is "Why does a Stepfather who doesn't support the children get to spend more time with them than their own father. This needs to be corrected.